

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W

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R 100821Z DEC76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8132

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13769

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 3 SUB PARA (B) LINE 4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, NI

SUBJECT: FESTAC

REF:(A) STATE 293979 (B) LAGOS 13656 (C) LAGOS 13294

1; DECEMBER 7 COUNTRY TEAM, CONSULS AND BPAO'S FROM IBADAN AND KADUNA, AND AF/W DIRECTOR REVIEWED PROPOSALS FOR FESTAC IN LIGHT OF REFS (A) AND (B).

2. IN APPEARS TO US THAT ACTION IS URGENTLY REQUIRED IN 3 AREAS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF SUCCESS OF DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST ZONAL COMMITTEE TO RAISE FUNDS. IN BRIEF, WE MUUT CONSIDER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN LAGOS, EXPLAN-ATION OF THE USG ROLE IN FESTAC AND THE PREPARATIONS NECESSARY TO SEND AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO THE FESTIVAL.

3. ADMINISTRATION: COUNTRY TEAM RECOGNIZES THAT MOST OF ITS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES MUUT BE DEVOTED TO FESTAC DURING THE FESTIVAL. CONSULAR PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WE NEED TO KNOW AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE HOW MANY AMERICAN SPECTATORS ARE LIKELY TO ATTEND FESTAC. CAN DEPARTMENT ESTABLISH LIAISON WITH AIRLINES, TRAVEL AGENCIES, AIR CHARTER COMPANIES AND NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES THAT WILL KEEP US
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INFORMED OF PROBABLE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS AND WHEN THEY WILL ARRIVE IN LAGOS?

(B) IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL AMERICANS, WHETHER PARTICIPANTS OR SPECTATORS, BE INFORMED OF CONDITIONS

IN LAGOS WELL BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN PARTICULAR, THEY MUST BE INFORMED OF HEALTH PRECAUTIONS, VITAL IMPORTANCE OF CONFIRMED HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS, THE UNAVAILABILITY OF SPECIALIZED MEDICINES, AND THE HIGH COST OF EVERYTHING IN LAGOS AND KADUNA. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES TO ENSURE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION ALONG LINES OF THAT TRANSMITTED UNDER COVER OF CROSBY/PATRICK OFFICIAL-INFORMAL OF OCTOBER 26.

(C) WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMING ALL BUREAUS, AGENCIES, POSTS, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, ETC., THAT TRAVEL OF USG PERSONNEL TO NIGERIA DURING FESTAC (JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 12) IS NOT RPT NOT PERMITTED UNLESS SPECIFIC ADVANCE APPROVAL IS SECURED FROM EMBASSY LAGOS; WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE FOR H TO INFORM CONGRESS OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN NIGERIAN TRAVEL DURING FESTAC.

(D) WE APPRECIATE ASSIGNMENT OF CONSULAR ROVER FOR FESTAC. WE EXPECT RISE IN REPATRIATION CASES IF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF U.S. CITIZENS ATTEND FESTAC. WE HAVE ASKED (LAGOS 12079 - OCTOBER 21) FOR A TDY ASSIGNMENT OF A SCS SPECIALIST AND WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE SOONEST.

4. PUBLIC RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MUST BE ABLE TO REPLY TO POSSIBLE NIGERIAN AND U.S. CRITICISM OF REDUCED SIZE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN FESTAC AND OF "UNDEMOCRATIC" ROLE USG MIGHT BE THOUGHT TO HAVE PLAYED. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR THE UUE OF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS AND EMBASSY. WE SHALL OFFER FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS POINT IN SEPTTEL.

5. OFFICIAL DELEGATION. FESTIVAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES INFORM US THAT INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO CU ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO ATTEND ALL OR SOME OF FESTIVAL. INVITATION IS APPARENTLY NOW IN THE MAIL. CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASE INFORM US WHEN IT IS RECEIVED. FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HAS ALSO INFORMED US (PARA 2 REF (:)) THAT TWO OR THREE INVITATIONS MAY BE EXTENDED TO DISTINGUISHED U.S. PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO BLACK CULTURE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE FMG MAY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE TO REPRESENT HIM AT FESTAC. WE SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO PLAN THE WAY IN WHICH AN "OFFICIAL" U.S. DELEGATION TO FESTAC MIGHT BE DESIGNATED AND TRANSPORTED TO LAGOS. WE DOUBT THAT THE TRAVEL OF ANY OF THE ABOVE WILL BE PAID BY I.F.C. (WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF "DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS"). FOR THE TIME BEING, WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT EXPLORE THE AVAILABILITY OF AN OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT A DELEGATION OF PERHAPS 5-10: THE

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE,
AND TWO OR THREE PRIVATE CITIZENS AND PERHAPS THEIR SPOUSES
TO LAGOS. IF THE PLANE WERE LARGE ENOUGH AND PROPERLY
CONFIGURED, IT MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE RELATIVELY
INEXPENSIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING SOME PARTICIPANTS.

6. IFC INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR ONWUACHI TELLS US HE
PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AMONG OTHER HEADQUARTERS OF
ZONAL COMMITTEES LATER IN DECEMBER. WE HAVE POINTED OUT
TO ONWUACHI THAT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S IS A POOR TIME
TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND HE INDICATED
THAT HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WELL IN ADVANCE OF
CHRISTMAS WEEK-END.

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